Kelleria laxa

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
White

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand, North and South Islands

Arthur tablelands, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

GENUS
Kelleria

FAMILY
Thymelaeaceae

AUTHORITY
Kelleria laxa (Cheeseman) Heads

SYNONYMS
Drapetes dieffenbachii var. laxa Cheeseman, Drapetes laxus (Cheeseman) Allan

TAXONOMIC NOTES
Kelleria laxa had been treated as indigenous by Heads (1990) because he regarded plants found in Victoria, Australia as conspecific. Marks & Walsh (2014) revisited the status of the Australian *K. laxa* plants and showed that they comprised another species endemic to Victoria which they named *K. bogongensis* Marks.

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

ETYMOLOGY
laxa: Slack, loose

NVS CODE
KELLAX

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 18

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heads, M.J. 1990: A revision of the genera *Kelleria* and *Drapetes* (Thymelaeaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany 3*: 595-652.

Marks, C.; Walsh, N. 2014: Taxonomic reassessment of *Kelleria* (Thymelaeaceae) in Australia and recognition of a new endemic Victorian species. *Muelleria 33*: 3-11

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/kelleria-laxa/

PDF DATE

25 May 2026